

Message Text

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SUBJ: U.S. VIEWS ON A POSSIBLE PALESTINIAN STATE

1. IN A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE, THE JERUSALEM POST OF AUGUST 5
PUBLISHED THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE, DATED WASHINGTON, UNDER
THE CAPTION "U.S. BEIRUT EX-ENVOY URGES PALESTINIAN STATE". BEGIN
TEXT.

2. U.S. SPECIAL ENVOY TALCOTT SEELYE, WHO WAS EVACUATED FROM
LEBANON LAST WEEK AND IS NOW IN WASHINGTON, HAS REPORTEDLY
RECOMMENDED THAT THE U.S. CONSIDER REVERSING ITS PRESENT
OPPOSITION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE PALESTINIAN STATE
ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP IN ORDER TO HELP FIND A FACE-
SAVING SOLUTION TO THE LEBANESE CONFLICT.

3. THE THE U.S. EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV HAS REPORTEDLY CHALLENGED
SEELYE'S RECOMMENDATION, EXPRESSING FEAR THAT A PUBLIC U.S.
STAND IN FAVOUR OF A PALESTINIAN STATE COULD RESULT IN THE REMOVAL
OF THE PRESENT RABIN GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS BASED MUCH OF ITS
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POPULARITY IN ISRAEL ON MAINTAINING A COORDINATED U.S.-

ISRAEL POSITION.

4. ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCES HERE, THE SEELYE RECOMMENDATION IS CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED BY POLICYMAKERS HERE. BUT IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THE U.S. WOULD CHANGE ITS POLICY ON THIS SENSITIVE SUBJECT AT THIS POINT, CONCERNED OVER THE NEGATIVE REACTION IT WOULD HAVE BOTH IN ISRAEL AND JORDAN.

5. ACCORDING TO SEELYE, THE PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO ACCEPT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN LEBANON IF THE U.S. WERE TO PUBLICLY SUPPORT A SEPARATE PALESTINIAN STATE. UNTIL NOW, THE U.S. HAS SAID ONLY THAT PALESTINIAN "INTERESTS" SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION DURING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN, BUT HAS OPPOSED A NEW STATE.

6. OBSERVERS HERE NOTED THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV IS VERY AWARE OF AND SENSITIVE TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WASHINGTON'S APPROACH TOWARD THE ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT AND THE POTENTIAL RAMIFICATIONS IT HAS ON THE DOMESTIC ISRAEL SCENE.

7. THE ADVICE OF THE U.S. EMBASSY ALSO INDICATES THE RELATIVE WEAKNESS OF THE ISRAEL GOVERNMENT, AS PERCEIVED BY THE AMERICANS.
END TEXT.
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